

APRIL 4, 1978

FIFTIETH OSCAR AWARDS

ANNCR

A COMEDY WON BEST PICTURE OF THE YEAR, TWO FIRST-TIME NOMINEES WON BEST ACTOR AND ACTRESS, FRANCE WON THE BEST FOREIGN FILM AWARD, AND A CONTROVERSY AROSE OVER THE POLITICAL ACTIVITIES AND BELIEFS OF ACTRESS VANESSA REDGRAVE. IT WAS ALL PART OF THE FIFTIETH ANNUAL OSCAR AWARDS OF THE AMERICAN ACADEMY OF MOTION PICTURE ARTS AND SCIENCES. HERE WITH DETAILS FROM VOA WEST COAST CORRESPONDENT MATTHEW SCHNEIDER, IS -----.

VOICE:

A FIFTEEN METER HIGH STATUE OF OSCAR DOMINATED THE SCENE OUTSIDE THE LOS ANGELES MUSIC CENTER, BUT IT WAS THE SOUND OF PROTEST WHICH ACADEMY MEMBERS HEARD AS THEY ARRIVED FOR THE CEREMONY.

TAPE : CUT ONE -- SOUND (CHANTING) IN FULL THEN UNDER AND OUT  
BEHIND

VOICE:

ABOUT 75 MEMBERS OF THE JEWISH DEFENSE LEAGUE WERE PROTESTING THE NOMINATION OF THE BRITISH ACTRESS VANESSA REDGRAVE FOR AN ACADEMY AWARD. THEY WERE DEMONSTRATING BECAUSE MISS REDGRAVE HAD PRODUCED AND NARRATED A FILM CALLED "THE PALESTINIAN," ABOUT THE PALESTINE LIBERATION ORGANIZATION. SOME 75 SUPPORTERS OF THE PLO DEMONSTRATED IN SUPPORT OF MISS REDGRAVE. THERE WAS SHOUTING BUT NO VIOLENCE BETWEEN THE JDL AND THE PALESTINIAN SUPPORTERS.

ONCE THE ACADEMY MEMBERS GOT PAST THE SHOUTING DEMONSTRATORS THEY MUST HAVE BEEN BUOYED UP AT THE SIGHT OF SEVERAL THOUSAND ENTHUSIASTIC MOVIE FANS CROWDED AROUND THE ENTRANCE TO THE DOROTHY CHANDLER PAVILION AT THE MUSIC CENTER.

MICROPHONE IN HAND, THE HOLLYWOOD COLUMNIST ARMY ARCHERD  
HANDLED THE OUTSIDE SHOW...

TAPE: CUT TWO ARCHERD IN FULL, FADE AFTER :12

VOICE:

INSIDE THE COMEDIAN BOB HOPE HOSTED THE NEARLY THREE HOUR  
LONG PROGRAM WHICH ALSO SERVED TO CELEBRATE OSCAR'S FIFTIETH  
ANNIVERSARY. (OPT) AMONG THE MANY STARS WHO PAID TRIBUTE TO OSCAR WERE  
BETTE DAVIS AND GREGORY PECK, BOTH FORMER PRESIDENTS OF THE  
ACADEMY:

TAPE: CUT THREE -- DAVIS/PECK

"FIFTY YEARS AGO THE ACADEMY AWARDS WERE PRESENTED WITHOUT  
FANFARE AT A DINNER IN LOS ANGELES, A SORT OF A FAMILY BASH IT WAS  
FOR FILM ARTISTS AND TECHNICIANS. IT'S STILL ESSENTIALLY THAT, BUT  
THE ANNUAL EVENT HAS SO CAPTURED THE PUBLIC IMAGINATION THAT IT IS  
NOW FRONT PAGE NEWS. OUR AWARDS CEREMONY IS SEEN ON TELEVISION IN  
50 COUNTRIES BY THREE HUNDRED MILLION PEOPLE. WE'VE COME A LONG  
WAY BABY.

(PECK) "THIS ONE BIG NIGHT A YEAR PROVIDES THE ACADEMY WITH  
REVENUE WHICH SUPPORTS ITS LIBRARY, THE WORLD'S MOST EXTENSIVE ON  
THE SUBJECT OF FILM, ITS SCHOLARSHIPS AND INTERN PROGRAMS FOR  
YOUNG FILMMAKERS, ITS STUDENT FILM AWARDS, ITS LECTURES, SEMINARS,  
RETROSPECTIVES AND ITS NATIONAL INFORMATION SERVICE. ALL DESIGNED  
TO SERVE THE CAUSE OF EXCELLENCE IN FILM MAKING AND FILM SCHOLAR-  
SHIP." (END OPT)

VOICE:

THE FIRST OSCAR PRESENTATION OF THE EVENING, WAS FOR BEST  
ACTRESS IN A SUPPORTING ROLE. THE WINNER WAS VANESSA REDGRAVE  
WHO, WITH JANE FONDA AND JASON ROBARDS, PLAYED IN A PRE-WORLD  
WAR TWO DRAMA "JULIA". THE BRITISH ACTRESS USED HER ACCEPTANCE  
SPEECH TO STATE A POLITICAL POSITION.

TAPE: CUT FOUR -- REDGRAVE

"MY DEAR COLLEAGUES, I THANK YOU VERY, VERY MUCH FOR THIS  
TRIBUTE TO MY WORK. I THINK THAT JANE FONDA AND I HAVE DONE  
THE BEST WORK OF OUR LIVES. I THINK THIS WAS, IN PART, DUE TO  
OUR DIRECTOR FRED ZINNEMAN. (APPLAUSE) I THINK IT'S ALSO IN  
PART BECAUSE WE BELIEVED AND BELIEVE IN WHAT WE WERE EXPRESSING.

TWO, OUT OF MILLIONS WHO GAVE THEIR LIVERS, WERE PREPARED TO SACRIFICE EVERYTHING IN THE FIGHT AGAINST FASCIST AND RACIST NAZI GERMANY. AND I SALUTE YOU AND I PAY TRIBUTE TO YOU AND I THINK YOU SHOULD BE VERY PROUD THAT IN THE LAST FEW WEEKS YOU STOOD FIRM AND YOU'VE REFUSED TO BE INTIMIDATED BY THE THREATS OF A SMALL BUNCH OF ZIONIST HOODLUMS WHOSE BEHAVIOR, (OUTCRIES) WHOSE BEHAVIOR IS AN INSULT TO THE STATURE OF JEWS ALL OVER THE WORLD AND TO THEIR GREAT AND HEROIC RECORD OF STRUGGLE AGAINST RACISM AND DEPRESSION."

VOICE:

LATER IN THE CEREMONY, THE NOTED WRITER PADDY CHAYEFSKY USED HIS MOMENT AT THE PODIUM TO REPLY TO MISS REDGRAVE:

TAPE: CUT FOUR -- CHAYEFSKY

"BEFORE I GET ON TO THE WRITING AWARD, THERE'S A LITTLE MATTER I'D LIKE TO TIDY UP, AT LEAST IF I EXPECT TO LIVE WITH MYSELF TOMORROW MORNING. I WOULD LIKE TO SAY, PERSONAL OPINION OF COURSE, THAT I'M SICK AND TIRED OF PEOPLE EXPLOITING THE OCCASION OF THE ACADEMY AWARDS (APPLAUSE) FOR THE PROPAGATION OF THEIR OWN PERSONAL POLITICAL PROPAGANDA. (APPLAUSE) I WOULD LIKE TO SUGGEST TO MISS REDGRAVE THAT HER WINNING OF AN ACADEMY AWARD IS NOT A PIVOTAL MOMENT IN HISTORY -- DOES NOT REQUIRE A PROCLAMATION -- AND A SIMPLE THANK YOU WOULD HAVE SUFFICED."

VOICE:

THE SPACE FANTASY "STAR WARS" EARNED THE MOST OSCARS -- SEVEN -- BUT THE WINNER OF THE COVETED BEST PICTURE OF THE YEAR WAS "ANNIE HALL," THE ROMANTIC COMEDY ABOUT A NEUROTIC COMEDIAN, WOODY ALLEN, AND A NAIVE ACTRESS, DIANE KEATON, WHO FALL IN AND OUT OF LOVE. IN ADDITION TO BEST PICTURE, IT RECEIVED THREE MORE OSCARS: ONE FOR DIANE KEATON AS BEST ACTRESS AND TWO FOR WOODY ALLEN AS BEST WRITER AND BEST DIRECTOR.

(OPT) MISTER ALLEN WHOSE DISTASTE FOR AWARDS AND COMPETITION IN THE ARTS IS WELL KNOWN DID NOT ATTEND THE CEREMONY BUT HE SAYS HE WILL ACCEPT THE OSCARS. (END OPT)

THE ONLY MAJOR AWARD NOT CAPTURED BY "ANNIE HALL" WAS BEST ACTOR; THAT WENT TO RICHARD DREYFUSS WHO STARRED IN "THE GOODBYE GIRL," ANOTHER ROMANTIC COMEDY WRITTEN BY THE POPULAR PLAYWRIGHT, NEIL SIMON. THE ACTOR EXPRESSED COMPLETE AND OBVIOUSLY GENUINE

SURPRISE BUT HE SAID THAT HE BELIEVED THAT HIS PERFORMANCE IN "THE GOODBYE GIRL" WAS HIS BEST EVER. HE CREDITED THAT TO HIS DIRECTOR, HERBERT ROSS.

TAPE: CUT FIVE -- DREYFUSS

"WHAT WAS MORE IMPORTANT THAN THAT WAS THE CIRCUMSTANCES UNDER WHICH THE FILM WAS MADE. THE GRACE WITH WHICH HERB ROSS CONDUCTED THE FILM AND THE MATERIAL THAT NEIL (SIMON) GAVE US TO WORK WITH. I THINK THAT EVERY PART, AT LEAST, THOSE THAT I'VE PLAYED, HAS AS MANY ELEMENTS OF ME IN THEM AS ELIOT GARFIELD DOES (IN THE FILM). THE CIRCUMSTANCES UNDER WHICH THE WORK WAS BROUGHT OUT WAS MUCH MORE CREATIVE, MUCH MORE RELAXED. IT WAS THE PERFECT WORKING SITUATION THAT ALLOWED ME TO ATTAIN A LEVEL OF RELAXATION AND CREATIVITY THAT I HAD NEVER BEEN ABLE TO DO BEFORE."

VOICE:

THE FRENCH FILM "MADAME ROSA" STARRING SIMONE SIGNORET, WON BEST FOREIGN FILM OF THE YEAR.

JASON ROBARDS WON HIS SECOND CONSECUTIVE OSCAR FOR HIS SUPPORTING ROLE IN "JULIA,"

IN ADDITION TO "STAR WARS" SEVERAL TECHNICAL AWARDS WENT TO ANOTHER SCIENCE FICTION FANTASY "CLOSE ENCOUNTERS OF THE THIRD KIND."

FINALLY, AS THE LIGHTS DIMMED ON THE GIANT STAGE AND THE GLAMOROUS COMPANY ROSE TO DEPART, CAME A FINAL QUIP FROM MASTER-OF-CEREMONIES, BOB HOPE. IT WAS THE END OF THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE OSCAR PRESENTATIONS BY THE MOTION PICTURE ACADEMY OF ARTS AND SCIENCES, BUT A TIME TO LOOK FORWARD TO THE NEXT 50 YEARS, AND, SAID THE 74-YEAR-OLD COMEDIAN, "I'M AVAILABLE!"

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BML/RTD